

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-07 IO-13 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /086 W
-----260131Z 042645 /75

R 251400Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4890
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
USMISSION USBERLIN UNN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BERLIN 6143

E O 11652: NA
TAGS: PFOR GE LA
SUBJ: VISIT OF LAOTIAN DELEGATION TO EAST BERLIN

REF: A) VIENTIANE 823; B) VIENTIANE 859

1. THE LAOTIAN DELEGATION HEADED BY KAYSONE PHOMVIHANE RECEIVED EAST BERLIN'S RED CARPET TREATMENT DURING ITS VISIT FROM MAY 11-16, 1977. THE FORMALITIES AND MEETINGS DURING THE VISIT INDICATED A HIGH DEGREE OF GDR INTEREST IN DISPLAYING ITS DESIRE FOR CLOSE RELATIONS WITH THE GOVERNMENT AND PARTY OF LAOS. CONVERSATIONS TOOK PLACE AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF THE GDR PARTY/GOVERNMENT HEIRARCHY. PARTY CHIEF AND HEAD OF STATE HONECKER WAS HOST TO THE DELEGATION AND A MASS RALLY WAS HELD IN THE PALACE OF THE REPUBLIC IN HONOR OF THE VISITORS. THE VISIT TO EAST BERLIN WAS CAPPED BY SIGNATURE OF SEVERAL BILATERAL AGREEMENTS AND BY ISSUANCE OF A JOINT DECLARATION BY THE TWO HEADS OF STATE. THE LAOTIAN PARTY ENDED ITS VISIT BY A ONE-DAY VISIT MAY 16 TO
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ERFURT WHERE THEY MET WITH A CONTINGENT OF GDR BORDER GUARDS.

2. THE GDR HOSTS WERE UNDOUBTEDLY PLEASED BY PHOMVIHANE'S SUPPORT FOR THE GDR POSITION ON BERLIN AND PRAISE FOR THE BERLIN WALL AS A "BULWARK AGAINST FASCISM". THE GDR PROMISED FURTHER ASSISTANCE TO LAOS

IN ITS EFFORT TO MOVE FROM A DISADVANTAGED STATE DIRECTLY TO SOCIALISM WITHOUT THE NECESSITY OF THE "CAPITALISTIC" PHASE. LAOS/GDR RELATIONS WERE PUT ON THE BASIS OF PROLETARIAN INTERNATIONALISM, PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE AND FRIENDSHIP WITH THE SOVIET UNION.

3. AMONG THE SEVERAL AGREEMENTS SIGNED WERE THOSE ON POST AND TELEGRAPHIC COMMUNICATION, CULTURE, AND SCIENTIFIC TECHNOLOGICAL EXCHANGE. NONE OF THESE AGREEMENTS HAS BEEN PUBLISHED AND THE JOINT DECLARATION DID NOT SPELL OUT ANY OF THE DETAILS OF GDR/LAOTIAN COOPERATION. HONECKER ACCEPTED AN INVITATION TO VISIT LAOS.

4. COMMENT: THE LAOTIAN VISIT PROVIDED ANOTHER OPPORTUNITY FOR THE GDR TO ASSOCIATE ITSELF WITH A "VICTORIOUS" COMMUNIST COUNTRY IN THE FAR EAST AND WITH A MEMBER OF THE NON-ALIGNED GROUP OF NATIONS. ALTHOUGH PRESS REPORTING OF THE VISIT WAS PROMINENT, THERE WAS LITTLE IF ANY ANALYSIS. GDR ASSISTANCE WILL PROBABLY CONTINUE TO BE GIVEN TO LAOS BUT GEOGRAPHY AND LACK OF COMMON INTERESTS WILL LIMIT THAT ASSISTANCE TO MODEST LEVELS. POLANSKY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Concepts: BERLIN WALL, MEETING DELEGATIONS, PARTY LEADERS, VISITS, STATUS OF BERLIN
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 25-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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